



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
October 23, 2007**

Since the last AWIB meeting held May 8th and 9th in Juneau the AWIB staff have been busy getting up to speed on our respective job duties and working with the Executive Committee conducting business of the AWIB and providing input and review of programs administered by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). Staff have been working with the Workforce Readiness and Employment Placement Committee, Policy Planning and Assessment & Evaluation Committee, and Youth Council Committee members with action items including strategic planning documents that identify priorities of their respective committees and updating contact information from Regional Advisory Councils. Committee reports have been submitted in the board packets for review.

Five new AWIB members were appointed since our last meeting in Juneau, including Betty Jo Dibble, Dave Rees, Linda Hulbert, Norm Phillips, and Interim Commissioner Barbara Thompson. Their biographies have been provided in the board packets and the committee rosters have been updated to reflect the new board members. Please welcome our new board members to the AWIB.

Staff have prepared board packets and a copy of the board packet materials has been posted on the AWIB website at www.labor.state.ak.us/awib/resources.htm. We have a full AWIB agenda including the following:

- a presentation on the Governor's Career Readiness Certificate and Work Ready/College Ready Initiative from the Department of Education and Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development staff;
- a mining industry panel and health care industry panel in recognition of the workforce development needs of these priority industries;
- an assessment of the Construction Training Plan adopted by the AWIB in April 2006 and a copy of the draft health care industry and transportation training plans that were developed in prior years that will be available for review by the AWIB for further development;
- a presentation on apprenticeships from Gerry Andrews, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's new Apprenticeship Coordinator and John Hakala from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship;
- the AWIB will be provided with a draft resolution in support of Registered Apprenticeships per the Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 2-07 from

the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration received July 12, 2007;

- a presentation of the Pipeline Construction Training Plan from the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development that is being developed by the Department with input from a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from industry, education, and labor seeking a resolution of support from the AWIB; and
- a tour led by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development of the Proposed Pipeline Training Facility in the afternoon of October 23rd.

Hard copies of the binders will be provided at the meeting in Fairbanks.

Outreach Travel

- Attended two graduations of the Anchorage Construction Academy at King Career Center in Anchorage.
- Traveled to Delta Junction on June 21, 2007 to attend the graduation of the Civil Construction Academy as part of the Delta Career Advancement Center.
- Traveled to Kotzebue on July 9th and 10th to participate in a Workforce Development and local hire panel with Chair Baker as part of the Arctic Economic Development Summit. This trip provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Northwest Arctic Borough and Arctic Slope Borough to discuss workforce development priorities and opportunities.
- Traveled to Seward to tour the AVTEC facility in August with representatives from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development in early August.
- Traveled to Donlin Creek Mine on August 7th with Commissioner Bishop, Commissioner Notti, First Gentleman Todd Palin, Fred Villa, Dennis Steffy, and Fred Esposito for a tour of the operations and discussed local hire and workforce development needs. The mine is operated by Barrick Gold Corporation and is in the exploratory phase with a decision to proceed expected in December 2007. According to Barrick Gold Company, the mine currently employs over 200 people with a high local hire rate. If Barrick Gold decides to proceed with the mine, the Department plans to assist in the development of a training plan with input from the AWIB utilizing existing training facilities in Alaska.
- Traveled to the Alaska Military Youth Academy on Ft. Richardson with Commissioner Bishop for a tour on August 27th to discuss workforce development programs available to cadets.

Highlights

The State's Two-Year Strategic Plan for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act for PY 2007 and 2008 has been submitted and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The 2006 WIA Annual Report was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor on October 1st.

A letter was sent out to the regional advisory councils on August 10th to verify contact information and request input from regional advisory councils at Policy and Planning and Assessment & Evaluation committee meetings. A summary of the regional advisory councils has been provided in your board packets.

An assessment of the Construction Training Plan that was approved by the AWIB in April of 2006 has been completed and staff will provide an update on the assessment at the October meeting. Staff have provided a copy of draft health care and transportation plans that had previously been worked on by the AWIB for review at the October meeting.

DOLWD has hired Gerry Andrews as the Apprenticeship Coordinator who will be working to develop cooperative relationships with business and industry for Registered Apprenticeships to address workforce development needs.

Pipeline Construction Training Plan

Three committees were formed to work on Pipeline Construction Training Plan; the Internal DOL Team, Steering Committee, and AWIB Ad Hoc Committee. The Executive Director serves as the liaison between the three committees for development of the training plan and has updated the Executive Committee at regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

An **AWIB Ad Hoc Committee** was formed consisting of Tim Scott (Chair), Neal Foster, Karen Rogina, Dick Cattanach, Cynthia Erickson, Fred Villa, Todd Bergman, Jim Laiti, and Greg Cashen (Liaison).

The AWIB Ad Hoc Committee meets once per month and met on September 13th and October 9th to review the training plan being developed by the Steering Committee and DOL Internal Team. The AWIB Ad Hoc Committee had four members attend the Steering Committee meeting on October 3rd.

The AWIB Ad Hoc Chair and Executive Director will receive and facilitate comments and recommendations from AWIB Ad Hoc Committee members, and consolidate into one document for review by the AWIB Executive Committee, then

forward to Internal DOL Team and Steering Committee for incorporation into the Pipeline Construction Training Plan. The AWIB Ad Hoc Committee has been invited to attend the Steering Committee meetings to provide their input.

An **Internal Team** from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) was formed and consists of the Commissioner's Office, Fred Esposito (Lead), Corine Geldhof, Tom Nelson, Mike Shiffer, Brynn Keith, and Greg Cashen (AWIB Liaison). Staff includes Michelle Unrein from AVTEC. The DOLWD Internal Team is scheduled to meet twice per month to continue developing the training plan.

A **Steering Committee** was formed that consists of representatives from education, labor, and industry representatives who are assisting the Department in developing a statewide strategy for the creation of a regionalized delivery system for vocational technical training in a logical, sequential, and sustainable way. The Steering Committee consists of Bonnie Jo Savland from Alyeska Pipeline Co., Dave Rees from BP Exploration, Edgar Cowling from Conoco Phillips, Mike Andrews from Alaska Works Partnership, Tony Delia from ASRC Energy Services, Janelle Vanasse from Bethel High School, Karen Martinson from the Sitka Education Consortium, John Hakala from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, Dave Matthews from H.C. Price Co., Wendy Redman from the University of Alaska, Fred Esposito from AVTEC, and Greg Cashen (AWIB Liaison). Mary Lou Madden will be assisting with facilitation of the plan. The Steering Committee will meet twice per month in Anchorage.

The Steering Committee has developed a draft training plan template with a Background, Guiding Principles, Other Principles, Vision, Goal, and four strategies including 1) Increase opportunities for apprenticeship/structured OJT for skilled craft workers, 2) Increase opportunities for development of operations, technical resources, and management workers, 3) Increase awareness of and the ability to access career opportunities in resource development, and 4) Develop a comprehensive, integrated Career and Technical Education system for Alaska that aligns training institutions and coordinates program delivery.

The latest draft of the Pipeline Construction Training Plan template has been provided for review at the October AWIB meeting.

Timeline

October 2007	First Draft Due to AWIB at October 22 nd and 23 rd meeting requesting input. 2 meetings with I-Team and 2 meetings with Steering Committee. Review by AWIB seeking resolution of support of the training plan.
November 2007	Second Draft Due. 2 meetings with I-Team and 2 meetings with Steering Committee. Review of Second Draft by AWIB Ad Hoc

Committee (1 meeting). Training plan submittal to Commissioner of Labor on November 29, 2007.

DOL AGIA Website

AGIA Resource Documents are located at labor.state.ak.us/agia%5Fteams/.

The DOL AGIA Resources website has been updated with minutes from committee meetings through August 22, 2007. Drafts of the Pipeline Construction Training Plan will be posted as they proceed through development per the above timeline.

Committees

- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 10:00 a.m. All AWIB members are invited to attend.
- The next Policy and Planning/ Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for November 29th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment and Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next AWIB Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for November 2007.
- Nominations Committee – Doug Ward and Linda Hulbert will conduct the election for Chair and Vice-Chair at the AWIB meeting in Fairbanks on October 23rd.